

History 274: HISTORY OF WESTERN MEDICINE

Spring Semester 2008
Tuesday/Thursday, 11:00-12:15
Schroeder Hall 203
Office Hours: Tues./Thurs. 1:00-2:00 p.m.;
Wednesday, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

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Course Description

Although birth, illness, and death are universal human experiences, the ways people conceptualize and manage these experiences have varied widely from one culture, society, and time period to another. This lecture-discussion course opens with a brief survey of ill-health and medicine in the West from Classical times to the present, then concentrates on suffering and healing in the United States and Great Britain during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. It examines the relationship between medical theories and therapies, observes the roles of practitioners and institutions, and considers the impact of medical science and public health measures on health and welfare. It explores a shifting range of ideas about disease causation and the comparative evolution of health care delivery systems and public policies about disease and medicine. In addition, it considers the experiences, responsibilities, beliefs and perceptions of ordinary people dealing with matters of life and death — health, illness, prevention, and treatment — during the time period and places under consideration. Thus, it explores cultural, social, political, and economic dimensions of issues that continue to challenge us.

This course depends heavily on class discussion of assigned readings. Therefore, the success of the course depends upon student participation.

Course Reading

Roy Porter, Blood and Guts: A Short History of Medicine (New York and London: W.W. Norton, 2002).

Selections: Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, A Midwife's Tale: The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on her Diary (New York: Vintage, 1990). *Available in the SHAC Instructor Folder.*

Paul Starr, The Social Transformation of American Medicine (Basic Books, 1982).

Lucinda McCray Beier, *For Their Own Good: The Transformation of English Working-Class Health Culture* (Forthcoming from The Ohio State University Press, October 2008). *Available in the SHAC Instructor Folder.*

Nancy Tomes, The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life (Harvard University Press, 1998).

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Students are expected to read and be prepared to discuss the readings assigned for the course according to the schedule below. Additional assignments include:

- Being prepared at the beginning of each class to *either* identify an argument made in the assigned reading or ask a question about that reading;
- Two examinations; and
- Two 5-page essays answering questions from lists provided by the professor.

Evaluation

Examination 1	100
Final examination	150
Essays (2 @ 100 points apiece)	200
Class participation	<u>50</u>
Total points	500

Policies:

- Please inform the professor ahead of time (preferably via e-mail) if you must be late to class or leave class early.
- To be excused from class attendance, reasons for absence must be documented (e.g., illness, court appearances, bereavement, etc.). Points will be deducted for unexcused absences.
- Cell phones must be turned off during class.
- Students must bring assigned readings to class and come prepared to ask questions and discuss them. If students regularly come unprepared, the professor may give a pop quiz.
- Turning essays in after the due date will result in a loss of points.
- Make-up examinations will be offered only in documented cases of need.

Class Schedule

January 15	Introduction
January 17	<i>Disease and doctors.</i> Focus on humoral theory, the influence of Galen on Western medicine, and the range of learned and unlearned healers in traditional Europe. Discuss Porter: Chapters 1 and 2
January 22	<i>The evolution of medical science</i> Focus on the scientific revolution and changes in the medical gaze. Discuss Porter: Chapters 3 and 4
January 24	<i>Healing: therapeutics and surgery</i> Focus on revolutions in surgery and internal medicine Discuss Porter: Chapters 5 and 6
January 29	<i>Hospitals and modern medicine</i> Focus on changes in utilization and perception of hospitals

Discuss Porter: Chapters 7 and 8

- January 31 *Healthcare in early America*
Readings from Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, The Midwife's Tale (SHAC Drive)
Film: "The Midwife's Tale"
- February 5 *Healthcare in early America*
Readings from Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, The Midwife's Tale (SHAC Drive)
Film: "The Midwife's Tale:"
- February 7 **EXAM 1 (Bring a blue-book to class.)**
- February 12 **NO CLASS. BEGIN READING STARR.**
- February 14 *American physicians and the development of cultural authority*
Discuss Starr, Introduction (3-29)
- February 19 *Doctors in 19th-century USA*
Discuss Starr, Book 1, Chapters 1 and 2 (30-78)
- February 21 *The consolidation of professional authority*
Discuss Starr, Book 1, Chapter 3 (79-144)
- February 26 *American hospitals and public health*
Discuss Starr, Book 1, Chapters 4 and 5 (145-197)
- February 28 *The triumph of private professional medicine in the United States*
Discuss Starr, Book 1, Chapter 6 (198-234)
- March 4 *U.S. resistance to "socialized medicine"*
Discuss Starr, Book 2, Chapter 1 (235-289)
- March 6 *The advent of health insurance*
Discuss Starr, Book 2, Chapter 2 (290-334)
- March 11 **SPRING BREAK. NO CLASS.**
- March 13 **SPRING BREAK. NO CLASS.**
- March 18 *Zenith and decline of cultural authority*
Discuss Starr, Book 2, Chapters 3 and 4 (335-419)
- March 22 *Corporate medicine and the eve of managed care*
Discuss Starr, Book 2, Chapter 5 (420-449)
- March 25 *After Starr: On-going crisis and resistance to reform*

- March 26 *A brief history of formal medicine and public health in England* (lecture)
ESSAY 1 due
- April 1 *Working-class English experience of ill-health and medical attention*
 Lucinda McCray Beier ms. *For their own good*, Chapters 1 and 2 (SHAC Drive)
- April 3 *Professional medicine in working-class Lancashire*
 Lucinda McCray Beier ms. *For their own good*, Chapter 3 (SHAC Drive)
- April 8 *Contagious disease and public health in working-class Lancashire*
 Lucinda McCray Beier ms. *For their own good*, Chapter 4 (SHAC Drive)
- April 10 *Learning about sex and family limitation in working-class Lancashire*
 Lucinda McCray Beier ms. *For their own good*, Chapter 5 (SHAC Drive)
- April 15 *Childbearing and –rearing in working-class Lancashire*
 Lucinda McCray Beier ms. *For their own good*, Chapter 6 (SHAC Drive)
- April 17 *Popular media and the National Health Service: Transforming working-class
 English health culture*
 Lucinda McCray Beier ms. *For their own good*, Chapters 7 and 8 (SHAC Drive)
ESSAY 2 due
- April 22 *The germ theory arrives in the United States*
 Discuss Tomes, Preface, Introduction, and Section I (xi-90)
- April 24 *Germs, TB, and housekeeping*
 Discuss Tomes, Section II (91-156)
- April 29 *Zenith and decline of the gospel of germs*
 Discuss Tomes, Sections III and IV (157-268)
- May 1 *Health, medicine, and people: Where should we go from here?*
 LAST DAY OF CLASS
- May 5, 10 a.m. **FINAL EXAM (Bring a blue-book to class.)**